



Australian Bureau of Statistics

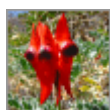
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Includes: **ABS News and Releases, Non ABS News**

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Australians using less water and more energy; Barriers and incentives to Labour Force participation; and new 'Understanding Statistics' webpages on ABS website.



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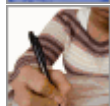
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ISSUE (QUARTER)

June 2010

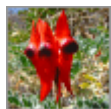
Release Date

9 June 2010

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

South Australian Statistical News and Releases,



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL NEWS AND RELEASES

ABS NEWS AND RELEASES

SA Stats (cat. no. 1345.4)

SA Stats provides an overview of the state's population and economy. This publication is updated on a monthly basis, with most releases also containing a feature article on socio-economic and environmental issues of interest.

SA Stats, February 2010

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian population and economy. This month's findings include:

- SA's unemployment rate is still below the national level.
- Retail turnover fell 3.7% in December 2009.
- Dwelling unit approvals rose for the fifth consecutive month.
- House prices in Adelaide are growing at a slower rate than all other capitals.
- First home buyers in SA borrow, on average, 12% more than non-first home buyers.
- Wine accounted for 16% of SA's exports in December 2009.

Also included in this month's publication is an informative article about the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) which will replace the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) on July 1, 2011.

SA Stats, January 2010

This month's SA Stats includes an article which looks at the cost of building a house in Adelaide. Home ownership remains part of the great Australian dream but rising property prices are perceived as one of the main components making that dream harder to realise. Data from the ABS publications **House Price Index: Eight Capital Cities** (cat. no. 6416.0) and **Building Activity Australia** (cat. no. 8752.0) are analysed to assess the changes in the cost of building a house in Adelaide.

SA Stats, December 2009

This issue of SA Stats includes an article on international students in South Australia. The number of international students studying in South Australia has increased dramatically in recent times. This article looks at the number of international student enrolments in South Australia, and presents data on where the students have come from. The article examines the type of education being undertaken, and also looks at the economic contribution these students are making to the economy.

New edition of Australian Social Trends

The ABS released the latest edition of Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) on 16 March 2010. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

The latest edition features five articles:

- **The labour market during recent economic downturns.**

The recent global financial crisis triggered a period of slowing economic growth in Australia. This article will look at how the labour market was affected during this time and compare this to previous economic downturns.

- **Health and socioeconomic disadvantage.**

Previous analysis has shown that disadvantaged Australians have higher levels of disease risk factors and lower use of preventative health services than those who experience socioeconomic advantage. This article examines differences in indicators of health among Australians according to the relative level of socioeconomic disadvantage of where they live.

- **Are young people learning or earning?**

Increasing education participation and improving transition to work outcomes for young Australians are key objectives of the Council of Australian Governments 2009 National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment. This article looks at the levels of engagement of young people in study and work including the transitions of recent school leavers.

In South Australia, it was found that approximately 21% of young people aged 15-24 years were not fully engaged (in either study or work). This was above the national average of 19%.

- **Income support among people of working age.**

In contrast to earlier decades, the period since 1996 has seen a fall in the number of working age people receiving income support. This article examines the changes that have driven the decline and profiles the recipients of income support.

- **Repeat imprisonment.**

The imprisonment rate has increased steadily over the last decade. This article looks at prisoners who have been released from prison and then reimprisoned within 10 years of their release.

Within 10 years of release, around 35% of prisoners in South Australia were reimprisoned, compared with the national average of 39%.

Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2008-09 (cat. no. 5220.0)

According to Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2008-09 (Reissue), Australia recorded annual growth in Gross Domestic Product of 1.1%, a level which was exceeded by the smaller states and territories. For example, SA recorded annual growth in Gross State Product (GSP) of 1.4%, as did Tasmania and the ACT. Most notably, NT recorded annual GSP growth of 2.6%.

Other findings include:

- All States contributed positively to the growth in Australia's Domestic Final Demand (2.1% overall) in 2008-09. For example, SA contributed 2.6% in annual growth in State

Final Demand terms.

- For SA, the main industries contributing to the 2008-09 gross value added growth (in GSP) were Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Retail Trade and Health Care and Social Assistance.
- Public gross fixed capital formation increased by 15.6% in SA over 2008-09 compared with an increase of 8.7% for Australia.

More details are available in Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2008-09 (cat. no. 5220.0).

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Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 8146.0)

Approximately two thirds (66%) of SA households had internet access in 2008-09, according to Household Use of Information Technology Australia, 2008-09. This increased from half of SA households in 2004-05. Seventy two percent of Australian households had internet access in 2008-09.

Other findings include:

- As of June 2009, over half of SA households (54%) had broadband internet access. This was the second lowest proportion of all states and territories, after Tasmania, with just under half. Nearly two thirds of Australian households had broadband access.
- Of households with internet access in SA, 17% had dial up, the greatest proportion of all states and territories after Tasmania (21%).
- Three quarters of SA households had access to a home computer, up from 41% in 1998.
- Frequency of use of the internet at home was lower in SA compared to Australia. Of those who accessed the internet at home, 51% in SA did so every day, compared to 58% in Australia.
- Of children in SA aged 5 to 14 years, 69% accessed the internet from home compared to 73% for Australia. South Australian children's most common type of internet activities at home were educational activities (87%) and playing online games (67%).

NON ABS NEWS

SA-NT Demonstration Projects

SA-NT Datalink provides a data linkage service to support research, policy development, service planning and evaluation. Five demonstration projects are currently being undertaken to highlight the potential for using data linkage to provide information about health, education, social and development outcomes. These projects will identify what is required to effectively link various data sources and build capability for ongoing policy relevant research.

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Feature ABS Releases



FEATURE ABS RELEASES

Publications

Australians are using less water but more energy

Australians are using less water but more energy, according to **Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, Jan 2010**. The report presents a snapshot of environmental issues affecting Australia. The 2010 edition also includes a feature article on the issue of climate change, and what it means for Australia.

This release highlights that water use by agriculture has fallen by almost half in two years, with the biggest reductions occurring in New South Wales (61.3%) and Victoria (44.3%). In South Australia, however, the amount of water used by agriculture fell by only a small proportion (4.3%).

Water storage levels in Australia's 'food bowl', the Murray Darling Basin, were down to less than one third of capacity at the end of October 2009.

Almost half (49%) of all homes in South Australia had a rainwater tank, the highest proportion of all States and Territories.

While water consumption fell, energy use rose. Australia's heavy reliance on fossil fuels, especially for power generation, has seen greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector rise by almost one-half since 1990, although emissions per head of population fell by 12% over the same period.

Some interesting facts on attempts to reduce energy consumption:

- The Northern Territory and Western Australia lead other states in solar hot water use (54% and 21%, respectively), but overall, less than 10% of Australian homes were using solar hot water in 2008.
- Australians are living in larger homes with fewer people; this is increasing greenhouse emissions from the electricity and gas used to build and run the houses.
- Over three quarters of people use a private vehicle to travel to work, but the proportion using public transport is slowly increasing. The biggest increases in public transport use have been recorded in Victoria and South Australia, while New South Wales has fallen slightly.

Further details can be found in [Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, Jan 2010](#) (cat. no. 4613.0).

Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation

Information from the ABS survey on the [Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force participation](#) (cat. no. 6239.0) provides information on the potential labour force and the characteristics of that potential labour force, which can be used to obtain a better understanding of the factors that influence people to increase their participation in the labour force.

Of the 16.1 million people aged 18 years or over there were 1.4 million who wanted a job or who would prefer more hours and would be available to work within 4 weeks. However 58% of this group indicated they were not looking for a job or more hours. Most of this group were

women (524,500 or 66%) and most were not in the labour force (687,600 or 87%).

'Caring for children' was the most commonly reported main reason for not looking for work or more hours and of people giving this response 54% reported they 'preferred to look after children' as the main reason for this while 16% reported 'cost/too expensive'. Another commonly reported main reason for not looking for work or more hours was 'studying/returning to studies'.

The most important work related incentive to join or increase participation in the labour force for both men and women was 'ability to work part time hours', with 51% of women and 28% of men reporting this as 'very important'. The next most important work related incentive for women to join or increase participation in the labour force was 'work set hours on set days'. For both men and women the most important financial incentive to join or increase participation in the labour force was the ability to 'keep more of pay' with 37% of people reporting that this was 'very important'.

Other Information

Making sense of statistics

The ABS has recently launched a suite of '[Understanding Statistics](#)' webpages on the ABS website. These webpages consist of a range of fact sheets, information guides, video tutorials, presentations and online courses to help you:

- find statistics you're looking for
- understand statistical concepts and processes
- analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
- communicate statistical findings with tables and graphs

[The Introduction to Statistics Online](#) course provides a comprehensive overview of statistics.

For more information about specific topics of interest have a look at our [online video tutorials](#) and [presentations](#).

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Summary of Selected ABS Releases



SUMMARY OF SELECTED ABS RELEASES

Economic, Environmental and Social releases

The ABS releases a large volume of publications and only a select few are highlighted here. To see all publications released in the last three months click on the following links.

[February 2010 releases](#)

[January 2010 releases](#)

Economic Releases

Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Coder, 2010 (cat. no. 1220.0.30.001)

The ANZSCO Coder provides a quick and efficient way to code occupation information to ANZSCO First Edition Revision 1. It incorporates a detailed coding index (an extensive list of occupation titles) which enables coding to the occupation (6-digit) level of ANZSCO with a higher degree of accuracy and consistency than is possible when using just the classification structure and definitions.

International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Calendar Year, 2008 BPM6 issue (cat. no. 5368.0.55.004)

For the first time this data has been released based on the sixth edition of the **International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6, 2008)**. All previous issues of these spreadsheets were on a BPM5 basis.

The spreadsheets contain trade in services credits and debits data for: country and country groups by calendar years; calendar years by country and country groups; state by calendar years; calendar years by state; detailed services category by calendar years; detailed travel service by calendar years by country and country groups; and education related travel credits by calendar years by educational sector by type of expenditure.

Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009 (cat. no. 6461.0)

This publication provides a comprehensive description of the Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI) based on the 15th Series -- what the index measures, the goods and services included in it, where the information on prices comes from, how the index is calculated, and how the statistics can be used. It also provides some insight into the kinds of challenges the ABS encounters in compiling the CPI and explains how these are resolved.

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Environmental Releases

Land Management Practices in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments, Preliminary, 2008-09, First Issue (cat. no. 4619.0)

This publication reports on the land management practices adopted by farmers in the Great Barrier Reef catchments. Information was collected on soil testing, fertiliser use, chemical use (including weed, pest and disease control), riparian management, surface water management and irrigation water management. Information was also collected on practices specific to particular agricultural activities.

Historical Selected Agriculture Commodities, by State (1861 to Present), 2007-08 (cat. no. 7124.0)

This publication contains estimates of agricultural production dating back to 1861. This publication aims to provide a broad overview of the movements of key agricultural commodities over time.

Social Releases

Life Tables, South Australia, 2006-2008 (cat. no. 3302.4.55.001)

This product contains life tables for males and females resident in South Australia for the reference period. A life table is a statistical model used to represent mortality of a population. In its simplest form, a life table is generated from age-specific death rates and the resulting values are used to measure mortality, survivorship and life expectancy.

Prisoners in Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4517.0)

This publication contains national information on prisoners who were in custody on 30 June 2009. Details are provided on the number of people in correctional institutions (including people on remand), imprisonment rates, most serious offence and sentence length. A range of information is also presented on prisoner characteristics and on the type of prisoner (all prisoners, sentenced prisoners, and unsentenced prisoners).

Job Search Experience, Australia, Jul 2009 (cat. no. 6222.0)

This publication presents information about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also presents data on the steps taken to attain work and current job details for employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, Jul 2008 to Jun 2009 (cat. no. 6238.0)

This publication presents information on retirement for people aged 45 years and over. For those who are still in the labour force, information is available about current job and retirement intentions. For those people who are not in the labour force, data items include age at retirement; reason retired; income sources in retirement, and use of any lump sum payments.

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002)

This release contains estimates of the sources and amount of personal income people received for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07, for Statistical Local Areas, Local Government Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions, State/Territory and Australia.

Data are provided on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from Wage and salary, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, and Other income (excluding government pensions and allowances). An estimate of total income (excluding government pensions and allowances) is also provided.

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Upcoming ABS Statistical Training in South Australia



UPCOMING ABS STATISTICAL TRAINING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Training Calendar (March - May 2010)

To assist in developing statistical expertise, the ABS can provide training courses to your staff. Our training programs are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in designing questionnaires, analysing data and managing the survey process. Courses can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your organisation, for example using South Australia-specific information, with the aim of upskilling people in the access, use, interpretation and collection of statistical information.

The ABS also provides regular seminars and information sessions which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues. The following training is currently scheduled for the Adelaide (SA) office in the first half of 2010.

Turning Data into Information

Date: 19/05/10 - 20/05/10

Duration: 2 days

Description: This course aims to equip the attendee with a range of statistical tools and techniques for understanding and analysing data in the context of a research objective. At a very broad level, the course aims to enhance the attendee's ability to:

- understand the research topic in its broadest context and identify the specific research question and objectives;
- understand data, their scope and limitations;
- understand strengths and weaknesses of various analytical techniques; and
- apply appropriate techniques to the available data in order to draw out the story and extract meaningful information from them.

The course will concentrate on how to choose a statistical technique that gives greatest insight into the data. During this process, the focus will be on the **application** of these techniques and not on the techniques themselves.

Who should attend: This course will be most beneficial to people who are required to undertake analytical work to inform decision-making. Basic statistical concepts such as mean and median are covered briefly. For those who need basic statistical concepts covered in depth, the ABS course Analysing Survey Data Made Simple is recommended.

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST)

Understanding Demographic Data - Workshop

Date: 25/03/10

Duration: 1 day

Description: This is a one day interactive workshop on demographic statistics. The workshop provides an overview of demographic data, with information on sources, methods of collection and production, and quality issues. Practical exercises using tools for demographic analysis are included. The course covers:

- the relevance of demographic data to contemporary social and economic issues;
- population dynamics such as population momentum and ageing;
- individual components of population growth (births/fertility, deaths/mortality, internal and overseas migration); and how these components are used in the production of population estimates; and
- population estimates and projections (including for Indigenous populations and for small areas).

Who should attend: This course is designed for people who use and/or need to understand demographic data to formulate policies and programs.

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST)

ABS Website made simple

Date: 12/05/10

Duration: 3 hours

Description: ABS on-line publications and data are free to download from the ABS website, www.abs.gov.au, and this computer-based course will provide an overview of the ABS, what data are available on the ABS website and some of the concepts used by the ABS. This course will build the attendee's knowledge on:

- who the ABS is and what it does;
- ABS collection methods, classifications and geographies;
- how to navigate and search the ABS website
- data formats used by the ABS
- original, seasonally adjusted and trend series;
- the Census of Population and Housing and how to access Census data;
- ABS Data Quality Framework; and
- services the ABS provides.

Who should attend: Attendance at one of these sessions would benefit new and existing users of the ABS website who would like an introduction to accessing, understanding and using ABS data.

Cost: \$120 (inc. GST)

Further details of training courses and registration forms can be found on the [ABS web site](http://www.abs.gov.au) (select 'Services' and then 'ABS Training'). The web site also provides information about other training courses that the ABS can present, courses that are scheduled in other states and territories, and on-line training courses. If you or your colleagues are interested in any courses that have not been scheduled in Adelaide, or you are interested in arranging tailored training packages, please contact the Statistical Consultancy Unit on (08) 8237 7465.

Symposiums and Conferences



SYMPOSIUMS AND CONFERENCES

NatStats 2010



The NatStats 2010 Conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, from 15 - 17 September.

NatStats 2010 will bring together an array of leaders and high profile commentators, researchers and policy makers from all levels of government, academia, community and business. NatStats was initiated to assist in the development of a collaborative approach to national statistics. It focuses on various issues surrounding quantitative and qualitative research, which have been highlighted by key government initiatives. The theme for the conference is 'Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia'.

The conference will build on the success of the first NatStats conference held in 2008, where around 480 delegates attended. A major outcome of the 2008 conference was the tabling of a statistical declaration to guide the development of a national statistical strategy for Australia in the 21st century.

NatStats 2010 will build on the enthusiasm and passion generated by delegates at NatStats08 and will offer delegates an opportunity to:

- Explore the impact of expected demographic, environmental and global economic change and their implications for governance, policy, productivity and the well-being of Australia's urban and rural communities.
- Identify the improvements needed in our national statistical system to understand and respond to these challenges.
- Identify improvements needed in the current statistical frameworks for measuring progress and development to ensure Australians' wellbeing.

An exciting program is being developed and will address a range of issues regarding national statistics. If you would like to hear more about NatStats 2010 or have any suggestions, please contact Annette Hants on (02) 6252 6936 or email natstats@nss.gov.au.

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ABS Mobile Disclaimer

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About this Release

Statistical News SA provides readers with new and relevant information about significant ABS data releases, state data releases, survey developments, training, information sessions and major changes to the statistical program.

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